

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A zoom lens system includes a negative first lens group, a positive second lens group, and a negative third lens group. Zooming is performed by moving the first  
5 through third lens groups in the optical axis direction. The negative first lens group is constituted by a negative single lens element having a concave surface facing toward the object, and satisfies the following condition:

$$-1 < r1/fW < 0 \quad \dots \quad (1)$$

10 wherein

r1 designates the radius of curvature of the object-side concave surface of said negative single lens element; and

fW designates the focal length of the entire zoom lens  
15 system at the short focal length extremity.